Bristol, January 4th 1850
Friday P.M.

My dear Mr. May.

Having received your letter of December 18th on Monday last (31st.) I am unwilling to let to-morrow's steamer leave Liverpool without an acknowledgement of your welcome communication, although I have time but for a few lines.

You may be sure your information of the safe arrival of the Model at Boston was no slight gratification to Mrs. Mitchell who was still under my roof: and the ladies by no means so much under-appreciate their handy-work as not to have anticipated even, the effect that would be produced upon the openers of the box ~~it~~ on having a full, & *immediate* view of its attractive contents. After all the care taken of it the Model, and the simple, but ingenious manner, in which it was packed, it would have been *aggravating* if it had not gone safely.

~~After all~~ Considering the expense & trouble to which Mr. M. had gone with the model, I have arranged that the payment of the freight should be defrayed out of funds in our hands. By the aid of much unpaid assistance, the total amount of water carriage &c: ~~[illegible]~~ is only £2..1..4.

The particulars (which as a matter of information you may like to have) furnished us by our Liverpool friendly Agent, are,

"Freight from Bristol to Livl.	0..2..10
Boat hire & carriage at Livl.	0..11..0
Freight per Europa to Boston	1..7..6
	£2..1..4"

We have received from persons desirous of contributing to these expenses 10/6 and also the following donations, which latter I hope you may be able to notice in your public accounts for the year

"Mrs. Genl. Dighton near Monmouth, Eng.		1..0..0
Henry Dighton Esqr.	Do.	1..0..0
		2..0..0

Mrs. Dighton contributed £1 last year, and had

a Liberty Bell addressed to her by Mrs Weston.
This I had much satisfaction in forwarding.
This lady is a kind hearted person, nearly
80, and brought up among connexions
where Anti Slavery principles would
not be certainly, be indigenous.

Deducting these expenses from the
£2..10..6 in my hands, there will
remain 9/2d which I will request
110½d
$2.20
Mr R. Carpenter to pay to you, with ~~10/10~~
10/10d (to make up an even sum) as
136½ pence
$2.60
my subscription for the Liberator
for the ensuing year.

I hardly know whether I am expected to contribute annually to the
Standard? The calls upon me are so
numerous here, that I should be very glad
to save the additional annual 2s/
which this paper & the N. Star cost me,
especially as I have not time to read
them: the Liberator I could not give
up: not being able to read the other papers

I send them regularly to the Bris Reading
Room of the Bristol Phil: Institution
where many people of have the opport.y of
perusing them.

Our papers contained the particulars of
the horrid Boston murder as soon as they
reached this country. A friend of mine, wh
dined with me yesterday, & was Surgeon ou
of the Cambria, well knew Dr. Webster
received many attentions from him.
Though Dr. P.'s remains have been i
tified, I have yet seen no evidence of
his death having been a violent one
I do not see however, how Dr. W. is to e
cape the strong circumstantial evidence
against him. Such an event as this, i
such a class of society, is almost unpara
leled.

Your Criminal Reports, (15 in numbe
shall go by some Boston vessel. You nee
not be uneasy at any in the supposition of
the collecting of them having occasione
any trouble. I am sure my old friend Si
Jardine felt pleasure in obliging me,
and I had no less in obtaining them for y
and even the little expense Mr. J. expende

2d they might cost me, was not incurred. as they were sent to him free of charge -

In a late Inquirer is an Abstract from some Criminal Tables by Mr Redgrave from which it appears that the diminution of Crime since the repeal, or less frequent infliction of Capital punishment, has not been so decided as was supposed. -

I hope you will lose no opportunity of taking Mr R. Carpenter in hand, and & endeavouring to make him see that American slavery is a more concentrated wickedness, and a more curable one than the enlistment of armies for the purpose of War as adopted by every nation on the face of the globe; and that by placing War & slavery in the same category he is playing the game that the slaveholders join in. And do not let him come home with the notion that because the mode of action adopted by the Abolitionists be repugnant to the taste & notions of ~~[illegible]~~ the Unitn Ministers, that *therefore* they are absolved from the de unpleasant duty of giving offence to others, and trouble to themselves by exerting all the influence they possess against the giant evil of Slavery.

If Abolitionism were a popular move-ment, would these clergymen be so abusive of those who are now labouring in it?

& Your account of your interview with Dr Gannett much amused me. Russell Carpenter writes to his family that "Dr Gannett is very fond of Mr May", so perhaps you may really have more in-fluence over him than you are prepared to expect?

We are very glad the french dissolving-views were new & acceptable to your young ones: our love to them.

I was thinking of writing a line to R. Carpenter to ask him if he could extort from Mr W. H. Channing a simple reply to the question about my picture of his uncle, which I have for so long, & ~~in sev~~ thro' so many channels, been endeavouring to procure? A custom prevails in this country,—a matter indeed

of common curtesy, for one gentleman
to answer a letter he receives from another:
Are you less particular upon this head, in
the educated circles of America?

You probably noticed in the Inquirer
Mr Lalor's spirited rebuke of Mr Car-
lysle for his contemptible attack
upon the negro race. I am glad to
see that the B. & F. Anti Slavery
Reporter for this month copies it

My daughter joins me in wishing
Mrs May & yourself a happy new year
and I am, my dear Mr May

Your sincere friend
J. B. Estlin.

As none of Mr Carpenter's family
mean to write to Mr R. C. by this
mail, will you ask him for £1-,
on which sum I have just paid to
Mrs H. Thomas, to be placed to his account?

My daughter was much pleased to see
Mrs. May's kind note

MS.B.1.6 v.14, p.9